

Rep Farr also recognized Central Coast Volunteers serving in Paraguay, Rwanda, Guatemala and other places around the world □□□□□

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Washington, DC – A Return Peace Corps Volunteer, Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today addressed the House of Representative in honor of the Peace Corps 50th

Anniversary—the day President Kennedy signed an Executive Order creating the Peace Corps. Mr. Farr also introduced a bipartisan bill to establish a commemorative work in the District of Colombia to recognize the founding of the Peace Corps, and honored Central Coast Volunteers serving around the world.

“Today we honor the nearly quarter million Peace Corps Volunteers who have served America in the name of peace,” said Congressman Farr. “Over the past fifty years, through war and conflict, the Peace Corps has shown the world a hopeful, uplifting side of America that reflects our fundamental ideals of peace, service, and grassroots development.”

In his remarks, Mr. Farr highlighted the service of Central Coast Peace Corps Volunteers: Gabe LaHue, Ashley Burke and James Staples. Gabe LaHue from Aptos is serving in Paraguay, working with community members on rural agriculture. Ashley Burke from Marina is teaching English at an orphanage in Rwanda. And James Staples from Pacific Grove is working on sustainable rural tourism in Guatemala. Currently, 25 Volunteers from the region are serving in developing countries around the world.

President Obama today issued a Presidential Proclamation recognizing the Peace Corps, as “an enduring symbol of our Nation’s commitment to encouraging progress, creating opportunity, and fostering mutual respect and understanding throughout the world.” The Presidential Proclamation comes at the urging of Mr. Farr, who sent a [letter signed](#) by a quarter of the House of Representatives, requesting Obama to issue a proclamation honoring the 50th

Anniversary of the Peace Corps.

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. Since its inception, more than 200,000 individuals have served in 139 developing countries around the world. Today, 8,655 Americans are serving in 76 countries, working with millions of individuals in impoverished areas on essential health, education, agriculture and technology projects designed to lift up local capacity and facilitate community ownership.

Mr. Farr served in the Peace Corps in Medellin, Colombia from 1964-66.

To view Congressman Farr’s full remarks from the House Floor, please visit, www.youtube.com/user/CongressmanSamFarr

To read President Obama's Presidential Proclamation honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, visit

[w.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

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